

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miller, Smisek, Smith, Strehler, Stadler, and Chairperson Wang.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Administrator Myers,
Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland,
Cultural Services Consultant Powers, and
Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Stadler moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Wang so ordered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Miller moved for the approval of the November 21, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stadler and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (with Chairperson Wang abstaining).

6. NEW BUSINESS

**6A. GENERAL PLAN PRESENTATION BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

Senior Planning Associate Chun introduced Community Development staff members Linda Cessna, DR Richardson, and Kevin Joe.

She provided an overview of the purpose and goals of the General Plan and the General Plan update process that includes a Parks and Recreation Element. She reported that the General Plan, last updated in 1992, is a document that guides the physical development of the City and outlines land use, circulation, environmental, economic, and social goals of the community for the next 20 years. She stated that the City is currently collecting information and community input that will be used to formulate the goals and policies of the General Plan and that completion of the update process is anticipated by fall of 2006. She reported that State law requires that seven elements be included in the General Plan: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. She stated that Parks and Recreation, an optional element, currently contains the City's parks and recreation facilities and functions, including goals, objectives, policies, and programs.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna requested that Commissioners review the current Parks and Recreation Element included in the material of record and offer any suggestions or comments that they feel will be helpful in the revision process. She advised that their ideas would be recorded and they would then be asked to prioritize the most important issues by placing dots next to them.

Responding to Chairperson Wang's inquiry, Senior Planning Associate Chun explained that the Parks and Recreation Element was an optional element and was not mandated by the State.

Commissioners, audience members, and staff made suggestions and comments that were listed as follows:

Support resident art program – music.

Summer activities for locals – park specific for each park.

Support art in public places – fees from development – in Torrance Municipal Code.

Expand cultural programs at McMaster Park and North Torrance Library – add art specific facilities – studios, galleries, theater.

After school children's programs at parks, schools – such as organized sports, activities.

Cultural Arts Center no longer rental – on going programs – focus of City's cultural programs.

Increase opportunities for students to attend functions and participate at Cultural Arts Center.

Satellite cultural programs at local parks – bring Center to parks and park programs to Center.

Choral Fest with schools at park sites – performances at Armstrong Theatre.

Promote art from students / display student artwork.

Arts Council of Torrance – work with their programs – co-sponsor with other existing arts groups.

Arts Alive! Festival – restore two-day exhibit. Provide more opportunities for artists to exhibit artwork.

Make “no fee” events available whenever possible.

“Discovery Museum” facility for kids.

Adult centers at parks – increase opportunities.

Adequate upkeep / maintenance of existing facilities.

Need for more public swimming pools. Toyota funding for upgrade to Plunge and donations for temporary pools.

Cover Torino Plaza so it could be used more extensively.

More meeting room space.

Need music room for classes where they won't interfere with other classes – practice rooms, soundproofing.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna distributed six dots to each Commissioner and asked that they prioritize the most important ideas. She stated that the results would be forwarded to the General Plan consultants and that the draft element would be brought back to the Commission in spring 2006 for further review and an opportunity to provide additional input. She encouraged them to attend the February 8, 2006 Planning Commission Workshop on the Land Use Element.

6B. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONER MARY P. MILLER

A recognition dinner to honor retiring Commissioner Miller was scheduled for January 11, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Macaroni Grill.

6C. REVIEW UPCOMING EVENTS IN EARLY 2006

Cultural Services Administrator Myers informed Commissioners that grant applications for non-profit arts organizations would be mailed out in early February 2006, with selection of recipients in May 2006. He advised that the 2006 Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony was scheduled for April 30, 2006 and that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission has requested that the Cultural Arts Commission co-host the annual Arts Tune-up at the Cultural Arts Center on June 10, 2006.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

No report.

7B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

No report.

7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Smith expressed concern that General Services staff no longer attend Cultural Arts Commission meetings. She stated that one of the Commission's functions was to oversee the policies of the Cultural Arts Center and that she would like the opportunity to ask questions about repairs and renovations.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers offered to transmit the Commission's concern to General Services.

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that the inaugural exhibition at the Torrance Art Museum, featuring artwork by De Wain Valentine and Nancy Braver, ended on December 10, 2005 and had over 1,000 visitors. She advised that the museum would be closed for one month to prepare for the next exhibition beginning January 14, 2006 featuring plein air exhibits. She stated that Museum staff has received positive feedback from art camps in attendance the last three Saturdays and distributed fliers on the new series of Artful Days with art historian Mary Drobny beginning January 10, 2006 with "Take a Trip Around the World."

In response to Chairperson Wang's inquiry, she stated that Museum attendance has increased a third from previous Joslyn Fine Art Gallery attendance. She stated that staff was looking at the time of day that visitors come to the museum to see if hours or days should be adjusted.

Responding to Commissioner Strehler's inquiry, she stated that visitors to the Museum have included private schools, an adult art gallery touring group, an Advanced Placement Art History class from Redondo Union High School, and a disability group.

Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland added that for outreach a Visual and Performing Arts Guide would go out to Torrance Unified School District students next month. He noted that the opening date of the Museum kept getting pushed back and that groups often have a six-month planning cycle.

He reported on recent events that included the youth production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," noting that Life Through Arts funded an additional fourth performance. He stated that he took representatives from the organization on a tour of the Museum. He distributed copies of the December 15, 2005 issue of Artline.

In response to Chairperson Wang's inquiry, he stated that Life Through Arts was a non-profit organization whose main purpose was to involve underprivileged children in the arts.

Responding to Commissioner Smith's inquiry, he stated that a Museum store was still under consideration.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported that publicity for the next Works in Progress would be provided at the January 2006 Commission meeting and that casting was underway for the February and March 2006 performances. He stated that the next Wild Wednesdays! will focus on music and culture from the Gulf region and that planning meetings for Ooodles of Noodles will begin in January 2006.

10. ORALS

Commissioners and staff extended appreciation and gratitude to Commissioner Miller for her nine years of service to the City as a Cultural Arts Commissioner.

Commissioner Smith questioned why Diane Lauridsen was performing "The Nutcracker" at El Camino College instead of the Armstrong Theatre.

Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed "Holidays in Harmony" at El Camino College and that she attended the Torrance Artist Guild dinner meeting in December. She commended staff for the successful opening exhibit at the Torrance Art Museum and discussed the importance of reaching the academic community for support. She provided a brief biography of Henry Hopkins, discussed traditional and modern art worlds, and stated that she took her students to visit the Museum.

Commissioner Armstrong shared information about a Russian impressionist exhibit at an art gallery in the City of Hawthorne.

Commissioner Stadler stated that her school choir's performance at Hermosa Beach Playhouse on December 15, 2005 and a concert at the Rolling Hills United Methodist Church on December 18, 2005 were very successful.

Commissioner Miller stated that she enjoyed the Torrance Civic Chorale's performances and a dinner function with Julie Andrews, Reba McIntyre, and Florence Henderson. She also enjoyed "Holidays in Harmony" at El Camino College and informed Commissioners that artwork by Steve West was being displayed in the Armstrong Theatre lobby. She expressed her appreciation to fellow Commissioners and staff for her rewarding experience as a Cultural Arts Commissioner.

Commissioner Smisek stated that she was busy working on Foundation programming and that she enjoyed the mariachi performance. She stated that she was looking forward to seeing the "Nutcracker" at the Opera House in Seattle.

Commissioner Smith stated that she also enjoyed the mariachi performance and is looking forward to the new series of American Perspectives lectures starting in January 2006 with B.D. Wong and Spike Lee.

Chairperson Wang stated that she enjoyed the Southwest collection at the Denver Art Museum and the University of Southern California talent show on December 18, 2005.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers announced that Debbie Collins was selected as "Employee of the Year."

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:53 p.m., Chairperson Wang adjourned the meeting to Monday, January 23, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Amended February 27, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
--